

CLAIMS:

1 1. A monolithic compensator for a liquid crystal display comprising:
 2 (a) a first deposited thin-film positively birefringent O-plate compensator layer
 3 having a first surface;
 4 (b) a second thin-film compensator layer deposited onto said first surface of said
 5 first compensator layer, wherein [each of said first and] said second deposited
 6 thin-film compensator layer is [layers are] selected from the group consisting
 7 of (i) a positively birefringent O-plate compensator layer, (ii) a positively
 8 birefringent A-plate compensator layer, (iii) a negatively birefringent A-plate
 9 compensator layer, and (iv) a negatively birefringent C-plate compensator
 10 layer.

1 2. The monolithic compensator of claim 1, wherein one or more thin-film
 2 layers of material are deposited between said first deposited thin-film compensator layer
 3 and said second deposited thin-film compensator layer.

1 3. The monolithic compensator of claim 2, wherein at least one of said one or
 2 more thin-film layers is a deposited thin-film compensator layer.

1 4. A liquid crystal display comprising:
 2 (a) a polarizer layer;
 3 (b) an analyzer layer;
 4 (c) a liquid crystal cell having a first transparent substrate and a second
 5 transparent substrate forming respective walls of said liquid crystal cell, said
 6 liquid crystal cell disposed between said polarizer layer and said analyzer
 7 layer; and

8 (d) a monolithic compensator in accordance with a specified one of claims 1, 2, or
9 3 disposed between said polarizer layer and said analyzer layer.

1 5. A compensator element for a liquid crystal display comprising:
2 (a) an optically transparent substrate; and
3 (b) a monolithic compensator in accordance with a specified one of claims 1, 2,
4 and 3, operatively coupled to a optically transparent substrate.

1 6. The compensator element of claim 5, wherein said optically transparent
2 substrate is an optical polarizer.

1 7. The compensator element of claim 5, wherein said optically transparent
2 substrate is one surface of a liquid crystal cell.